

Consolidation to add extra room for research

by Sue Baker, ASC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Two existing Air Force Research Laboratory test facilities are being combined and updated to create a new Consolidated Aerospace Structures Research Laboratory, which will add space and capability to its research efforts.

According to Ken Leger, lead project engineer in the Air Force Research Laboratory's Air Vehicles Directorate structures division, Butt Construction of Dayton is making the modifications necessary to relocate under one roof the research efforts currently being done in two separate buildings. This is part of an \$18 million Army Corps of Engineers military construction contract awarded this fall.

"Directorate scientists and engineers now perform acoustic, vibration and heat tests on smaller aerospace structures in Bldg. 461, while doing flight load and heat tests on larger structures, such as wings and fuselages, in Bldg. 65," Leger said.

"The new lab, scheduled for completion by winter 2002, will permit simultaneous flight load, heat and acoustic tests for aerospace structures as large as 10 feet by 10 feet, versus the previous, four-by-four-foot structural limit.

"Using the (consolidated laboratory), researchers in the directorate's structures division will be able to test futuristic aerospace items, such as 'skins' for next-generation reusable space-launch vehicles, for example," Leger explained. "When completed, the CASRL will offer scientists pioneering tomorrow's technologies more than 36,000 square feet of reconfigurable test space." @